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1960/03/26

TOPSECRETNOTE BY THE PRIME MINISTER (Copy handed to President Kennedy)

I propose to send tonight a copy of my private conversation with the President to Mr. Butler, the Deputy Prime Minister. I would also send a copy to Lord Home, the Foreign Secretary, for his information.

I would send the following instructions to Lord Home, subject to Cabinet approval:

- (a) We have agreed that if there is to be any military intervention the United States cannot be expected to go it alone.
- (b) Therefore some degree of British military contribution must be made.
- (c) A plan is to be worked out, of a limited character as described in my conversations with the President, at Bangkok between Admiral Felt and General Hull.
This plan must be kept very secret and not communicated to the other SEATO members or it will have a depressing effect upon them because of its limited character.
- (d) No actual military intervention will take place without joint decision by H.M.G. and the United States Government, as well as others.
- (e) As for the SEATO meetings the general purpose must be to keep a high morale, not definitely to discourage more ambitious planning, although we know it may be unworkable, and seem to create a sense of unity and determination, which may get through to the Russians.